

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An antiallergic agent comprising, as an active ingredient, lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of lactic acid bacteria of the species
5 *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum*, and combinations thereof.
2. The antiallergic agent of claim 1, wherein said lactic
10 acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus* are bacteria of the strain selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL0062 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-4980),
15 *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL92 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-4981), and combinations thereof.
3. The antiallergic agent of claim 1, wherein said lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum* are
20 of the strain *Lactobacillus fermentum* CP34 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-8383).
4. The antiallergic agent of claim 1, wherein said lactic acid bacteria are capable of reducing, when administered
25 orally, antigen-specific IgE level in blood in a mouse rhinitis model wherein antigen-specific IgE level in blood has been elevated by nasally exposing the mouse to

continuous antigen stimulation.

5. Use of lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of lactic acid bacteria of the species

5 *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum*, and combinations thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing allergy.

6. The use of claim 5, wherein said lactic acid bacteria
10 of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus* are bacteria of the strain selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL0062 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-4980), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL92 (deposited at
15 International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-4981), and combinations thereof.

7. The use of claim 5, wherein said lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum* are of the strain
20 *Lactobacillus fermentum* CP34 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-8383).

8. The use of claim 5, wherein said lactic acid bacteria are capable of reducing, when administered orally,
25 antigen-specific IgE level in blood in a mouse rhinitis model wherein antigen-specific IgE level in blood has been elevated by nasally exposing the mouse to continuous

antigen stimulation.

9. A method for reducing allergy comprising administering, to a subject in need of such reduction, an effective dose of an antiallergic agent comprising, as an active ingredient, lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum*, and combinations thereof.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus* are bacteria of the strain selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL0062 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depository, FERM BP-4980), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL92 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depository, FERM BP-4981), and combinations thereof.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum* are of the strain *Lactobacillus fermentum* CP34 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depository, FERM BP-8383).

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said lactic acid bacteria are capable of reducing, when administered orally,

antigen-specific IgE level in blood in a mouse rhinitis model wherein antigen-specific IgE level in blood has been elevated by nasally exposing the mouse to continuous antigen stimulation.

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13. (Newly Added) An IgE level reducing agent for IgE elevated patients comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one of lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum*, both capable of reducing antigen-specific IgE level.

14. (Newly Added) An IgE level reducing agent comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one of lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum*, both capable of reducing antigen-specific IgE level.

15. (Newly Added) An IgE level reducing agent comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL0062 strain (deposited at International Patent Organism Depository, FERM BP-4980), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL92 strain (deposited at International Patent Organism Depository, FERM BP-4981), and *Lactobacillus fermentum* CP34 strain (deposited at International Patent Organism Depository, FERM BP-8383).

16. (Newly Added) An IgE level reducing agent comprising,
as an active ingredient, at least one of lactic acid
bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and
5 lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus*
fermentum, both capable of reducing, when administered
orally, antigen-specific IgE level in blood in a mouse
rhinitis model wherein antigen-specific IgE level in blood
has been elevated by nasally exposing the mouse to
10 continuous antigen stimulation.

17. (Newly Added) An allergic rhinitis improving agent
comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one of lactic
acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and
15 lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus*
fermentum, both capable of reducing antigen-specific IgE
level.

18. (Newly Added) An allergic rhinitis improving agent
20 comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one of
Lactobacillus acidophilus CL0062 strain (deposited at
International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-4980),
Lactobacillus acidophilus CL92 strain (deposited at
International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-4981),
25 and *Lactobacillus fermentum* CP34 strain (deposited at
International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-8383).

19. (Newly Added) An allergic rhinitis improving agent comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one of lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum*, both capable of reducing, when administered orally, antigen-specific IgE level in blood in a mouse rhinitis model wherein antigen-specific IgE level in blood has been elevated by nasally exposing the mouse to continuous antigen stimulation.

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